(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in affirmative, what are the names of the anti-India rebel leaders who attended the meeting;

(d) what measures the Government of India have taken to meet the new front which Pakistan has opened to foment trouble in north-eastern India with the active support of the Bangladesh Government; and

(e) whether India has protested to the Bangladesh Government against such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (c) A news report to this effect, which mentioned Bijoy Kumar Hrangkhawal and three associates of the Tripura National Volunteers, as having been present at such a meeting, was published in the press at the end of January, 1986.

No confirmation of this, however is available with the Government. Bangladesh has denied the existence of any camps of Tripura National Volunteers in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

(d) and (c) Do not arise in view of to (c) above.

Talks with US regarding plight of Tamils in Sri Lanka

1768. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been any discussions by India with the United States Administration about the plight of Tamils in Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, what was the reaction of the US administration in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes Sir. During talks with the US Administration, the question of the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka has been discussed. The US side was apprised of the extensive time and effort being developed by the Indian Government in trying to assist both sides in reaching a political settlement to the ethnic problem. The US Administration has also been informed that Government was however disappointed at the Sri Lankan authorities approach in seeking a military solution.

(b) US Gov. indicated that it supported India's efforts and approach to have a political dialogue leading to a negotiated settlement.

Jelly fish clogging at MAPP

1769. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any alternatives have been found to the distant screening against Jelly fish clogging at MAPP; and

(b) whether any viable solution to the problem of viration has been suggested by B.H.E.L. or G.E;C?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir. The present arrangement, to prevent jelly fish clogging the screens, is working satisfactorily.

(b) The modification suggested by BHEL have been implemented which has resulted in a reduction of the vibration level.

Immunity of UNICEF from civil litigation

1770. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whe-

ther it is a fact that UNICEF is immune from civil litigation in respect of contracts entered into by it in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): Yes Sir.

Under the provisions of Para I of article VII of the Agreement between UNICEF and the Government of India of 19th April, 1978 read with Section two of the schedule to the UN (Privileges and Immunities) Act of 1947, the UNICEF, as an organ of the UN, is entitled to immunities from civil litigation in respect of contracts entered into by it in India.

1771. [*Transferred to the 18th March*, 1986].

Alleged link of an infiltrator with Indian Army Officers

1772. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one Amarjit Sandhu, a Sikh convert from Bangladesh had been nabbed by the Border Security Force while trying to cross into Tripura on 16th December, 1985;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he revealed that he knew several officers of the Indian army;

(c) whether Government have made any investigation regarding this; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) One Amarjeet Singh *alias* Dhananjoy Ghosh was arrested by the BSF in Tripura border on 16th December, 1985.

(b) to (d) During preliminary interrogation nothing has come to the notice to indicate that he knew several officers of the Indian Army.

Abolition of reservation for SC/ST candidates in Medical Colleges in Assam

1773. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Assam Government have decirded to recruit to the State Government jobs in the medical colleges on the merit and to abolish the quota seats for SC and ST; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Insistence of US on signing of GSOMIA by India

1774. SHRI KAPIL VERMA. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any indication that the U.S. Pentogon is opposed to the transfer of any sensitive military technology to India so long as this country does not sign a special security agreement called General Security of Military Information Agreement; if so, what stand the Government of India have taken on it; and

(b) whether U.S. has asked China to sign a similar agreement before transferring this kind of sensitive technology; if not, what are the reasons advanced by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) We are aware that, normally, the General security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) is signed between USA and Governments which receive classified military technology/information/systems from USA. We do not plan to sign the GSOMIA.